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or hinder railroad-building may be fully understood. In this sense, Captain de Renty's work contains much geographical information based on the latest and most detailed investigations. One of the appendices gives a table containing the statistics of all the colonial railroads in Africa now in operation or building up to Jan. 1, 1905.

**A Handbook of Cyprus. Compiled by Sir J. T. Hutchinson and Claude Delaval Cobham.** xii and 126 pp., Frontispiece and 2 Maps. Edward Stanford, London, 1905. (Price, 2sh., 6d.)

The fourth issue of this little book, which is a painstaking compilation of the matters most useful to know about the island. It is not a guide book of stereotyped pattern, but is especially valuable to those who may visit Cyprus, as the needs and wishes of the tourist are kept constantly in view. The black-and-white map is on a large scale, and gives a good idea of the land-forms, shows the roads, distinguishes Christian from Mohammedan towns, and prints place-names very fully. The small geological map is based on the larger map by Mr. Bellamy, published last year.

**Baedeker de la República Argentina. Por Alberto B. Martinez.** Second Edition. XV and 383 pp. With Maps and Plans of the Republic, Cities, Railroads, numerous Photographs, and Index. Jacobo Peuser, Buenos Ayres, 1904.

The introduction gives a description of the country, climate, agriculture, mining and other interests; also the cost of reaching Argentina by the various steamer lines. An unusually complete account of the city of Buenos Aires, with many illustrations, fills 137 pp. The various provinces are then treated in turn. The small pictures from photographs show many phases of Argentine life and industry, and the maps are on a sufficiently large scale to give all railroad stations and points of interest.

**Amerikanische Landwirtschaft. Eine Reisestudie von Siegfried Strakosch.** 187 pp., 56 Illustrations and 1 Map. Wilhelm Frick, Vienna, 1905.

The author in 1904 travelled through nineteen States of the Union studying the causes of the enormous development of our agriculture, and endeavouring to learn how much of it is due to "unequalled natural factors" and how much to improvements in farm methods. It is unfortunate that on his first page the writer should allude to "three great mountain systems—the Sierra Cascade Range, Rocky Mountains, and Alleghanies:" a slight confusion in our geographical nomenclature that seems to be merely accidental, for the description of our agricultural industries which follows is, on the whole, very clearly and accurately written. Mr. Strakosch states the facts that, in most cases, are best worth knowing, about the prices of our farm lands, the homestead and pre-emption laws, the scarcity of farm help and high cost of labour, the principal crops, the farm buildings, machinery, and cultural methods. He then describes types of farms in different parts of the country, our breeds of cattle and herd book societies, fruit culture, agricultural education, experimental stations, and many other influences which affect the standing of our great farming interests. Several chapters are given to the leading crops, grain elevators, transportation, the export trade, and the conclusions reached. The author attributes to the vast employment of farm machi-

nery the fact that the United States are able to produce five times as much grain as Austria-Hungary, though that empire, according to the statistics of the *Jahrbuch für das Deutsche Reich* for 1904, says that farming and forestry employ 10,512,019 persons in the United States, while in Austria-Hungary they employ 12,679,974. The book concludes with statistical tables which, like all the contents of the volume, are well selected and arranged.

**Mohammed and the Rise of Islam.** By D. S. Margoliouth. xxvi and 481 pp., 31 Illustrations, 1 Plan, and 2 Maps. Index and Glossary. G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York. 1905. (Price, \$1.50.)

Dr. Margoliouth, who is Laudian Professor of Arabic at Oxford, says in his preface that since the lives of Mohammed by Sprenger, Muir, and others were written "knowledge of Mohammed and his time has been increased by the publication of many Arabic texts and the labours of European scholars on Mohammedan antiquities." Some of these scholars have elucidated much that was obscure, facilitated the understanding of Arabian history both before and after the Prophet, and supplied many fresh details of interest and importance. The present book (*Heroes of the Nations Series*) has had the advantage of this new material. As the title of the series implies, the book is written from the standpoint that Mohammed was "a great man who solved a political problem of appalling difficulty—the construction of a state and an empire out of the Arab tribes." The author gives the sources of his references in very numerous footnotes. He has composed a work on Mohammed and the rise of Islam that is at once scholarly and interesting.

**Carpenter's Geographical Reader. Afrika.** By Frank G. Carpenter. 336 pp. American Book Company, New York, 1905.

Carpenter's Africa completes the well-known series of geographical readers, describing mainly personal experiences and observations of the indefatigable author-traveller. The text is simple and interesting, even though at times it is a bit patronizing, the descriptions are to the point, and the illustrations are, as a rule, clear. The text is made easy for the pupil reader by the insertion of the phonetic spelling of each unusual proper name, the first time that that name appears in the text.

The maps are good, and as accurate as maps can be of a country in which political boundaries are constantly changing. We wish that Cape Agulhas had been inserted, so as to help remove the common impression that the Cape of Good Hope is the most southern point of Africa. The author uses the unauthoritative spelling of Kongo State for Congo Independent State. These minor matters, however, do not materially weaken the strength of an otherwise valuable addition to reference material for school use.

R. E. D.

**Laboratory and Field Exercises in Physical Geography.** By Gilbert H. Trafton. VI and 90 pp. Ginn & Co., Boston, 1905.

Trafton's Laboratory and Field Exercises is a simple, definite book for beginners in physical geography, and particularly adapted for use in association with Davis's *Elementary Physical Geography*. Of the sixty exercises in the book, thirty-seven are devoted to the land and twelve to the atmosphere. The exercises on the land are particularly good, as they involve a careful study of selected sheets of the topographical atlas of the United States Geological Survey. The